

COUNTRY Eastern Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Potsdam

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REMARKS

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1. During the period from 30 August to 3 September 1952, the Kriegsschule at the intersection of Pappel Allee and Firsch Allee in Potsdam (N 53/2 63) quartered about 80 men, most of them officer candidates who wore red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport, tank, artillery and signal insignia. A major general was observed at the barracks installation. The officer candidates were seen at the Bornstedter Feld practicing terrain appreciation, aiming the gun of 2 JS tanks and receiving instruction with aiming circles. Every day during the reported period, a military band whose members wore black-bordered crimson epaulets practiced in the barracks yard. [redacted] members of the band were beginners.

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2. During the period from 30 August to 2 September, the Adolf Hitler Kaserne on the north side of Pappel Allee in Potsdam quartered about 700 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport or signal insignia and uniformed women. One billeting building and some semi-permanent buildings were occupied by the advance detail of a troop unit, three other buildings quartered the advance detail of another unit, two buildings were occupied by a unit of about 500 men, while a seventh billeting building housed the officers' club, kitchen, PX shop, the guard and female personnel. Other kitchens were being installed at the barracks installation. On 30 August, 75 women arrived. On 1 September, instruction was being given in the open. Subsequently, the unit was seen doing physical training. An NCO and 20 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport, artillery and signal insignia left the installation. On 2 September, the same activities were observed in addition to driving school practice with trucks [redacted]

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3. During the period from 1 to 3 September, the northern section of the Delius Kaserne, on Hedlitzer Strasse quartered about 350 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery or motor transport insignia. The unit was observed practicing pistol marksmanship, the construction of telephone lines, driver training, and maintenance work. A caterpillar tractor towing a 76.2-mm field gun and another caterpillar tractor towing a 152-mm gun howitzer were seen moving into position at Bornstedter Feld.

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4. On 27 August, the barracks installation in Wildpark-West, east of Grosser Entenfaenger Lake, quartered about 3,000 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets, most of them with motor transport insignia. The unit was observed practicing with driving school trucks and doing maintenance work. Vehicle garages were under construction in the southern section of the barracks installation.

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(3)

5. During the period from 22 to 27 August, the low wooden buildings of the former ammunition dump near Wildwaerterei (game keeper's station) in Wildpark were being dismantled. On 25 August, eight motor vehicles, which were signal vehicles, were seen at that site. An officer and three men wearing black-bordered black epaulets were observed constructing a telephone line from the site to the barracks installation in Wildpark-West.

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6. During the period from 14 August to 1 September, the Adolf Hitler Kaserne on Fappel Allee was occupied only by an artillery unit of about 300 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets and a motor transport unit of about 150 men. No training activities were observed. On 16 August, two prime movers towing guns of a caliber of about 200 mm.

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7.

8. During the period from 20 August to 3 September, a training course attended by about 140 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets was given at the Kavallerie Schule in Krampnitz. The men were trained in three groups as stokers. They were scheduled eventually to replace German personnel. Every morning, 20 officers and 20 men fell in for a roll call in front of a headquarters building.

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Detachments of up to 40 men armed with light and heavy machine guns left the installation for firing practices at the training field. On 2 September, trucks [redacted] loaded with boards and three roughly made boats about 4 meters long and 1 meter wide parked in front of one building. The boats were unloaded by 12 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia. Jeep [redacted] was seen with these men. In front of the billeting building of drivers' school, eight detachments totaling 240 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia were lined up. [redacted]

9. During the period from 28 August to 3 September, the Hohenlohe and the Ludendorff Kaserne on Nedlitzer Strasse were only lightly occupied. Sentries seen there wore red-bordered black epaulets. During the same period, the northern section of the Delius Kaserne was occupied to capacity and the southern section of this installation quartered only a rear detail. Sentries seen in the northern section of the installation wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. (3)

10. [redacted]

11. On 1 September, [redacted] an advance detail of soldiers who wore red-bordered black and black-bordered black epaulets at the Ludendorff Kaserne. [redacted]

(7)

12. During the period from 30 August to 3 September, the Kavallerie Schule at Krempnitz still quartered training units totaling 1,200 to 1,500 men, who wore red-bordered black epaulets, some of them with tank insignia. Combat training and training with AT guns and tanks by groups of 150 to 170 men in addition to driving school practice with trucks and tanks was observed. On both 2 and 3 September, three companies totaling 300 to 350 men marched from the barracks installation to the training field. Weapons seen in the billeting area of the installation included 57-mm AT guns, 120-mm mortars, T-34 tanks [redacted], T-34/35 tanks [redacted] in addition to SP guns [redacted]. On 2 September, trucks [redacted] each loaded with four wooden boats, 5 or 6 meters long, were seen in front of the garages. [redacted] all civilian employees would be discharged with arrival of the units. [redacted] 100 men arrived from the U.S.S.R. during the week preceding 30 August and that these men were to be trained as replacements for German workers. [redacted] a house near the southwestern entrance of the installation allegedly quartered a headquarters and [redacted] an advance detail of the returning units had already arrived. [redacted] a headquarters in a block of buildings north of the southeastern entrance of the installation.

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c. [redacted] maintenance work to be performed on tanks, and some data on the JS-type tank. [redacted]

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- (1) The first check is to be made after 25 to 30 operating hours or after a run of 500 to 600 km. Duration of the first check 10 to 12 hours.
- (2) The second check will have to be made after 50 to 60 operating hours or a run of 1,000 km. Duration of this check 14 to 16 hours.
- (3) Tactical and technical data on the heavy tank:
 The figures in parentheses refer to the JS-3 tank.
 Gross weight: 46.5 tons
 Crew: four men
 Length of tank: 6,770 mm, with gun 9,350 mm
 Width of tank: 3,070 mm (3,150 mm)
 Height of tank: 2,735 mm (2,450 mm)
 Road clearance: 465 mm
 Distance between the tracks: 2,420 mm

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Speed: (in km/h)

Gears	Reduced Transmission		Accelerated Transmission	
	Without PIP	With PIP	Without PIP	With PIP
1	3.8	2.8	13.2	9.8
2	5.4	4	19.2	14.2
3	7.8	5.7	27.3	20.2
4	10.7	7.9	37.7	27.2
3 x	4.2	3.1	14.7	10.9

Note: PIP stands for Planetarny Mekhanizm Povorota

Maximum speed: 40 km/h

Average speeds: on hard surfaced roads: 22 (30)
on dirt roads: 17 (20)
cross country: 16 (16)

Ranges: on hard surfaced roads: 130 to 150 (185)
on dirt roads: 120 to 135 (115)
cross country: 110 to 105 (95)

Clearance of Obstacles:

ascent and descent: slopes of 36° (32°)
maximum angle of side inclination: 30°
fording ability: 1.3 meters (1.4 meters)
maximum width of ditches that can be crossed: 2.5 meters (2.5 meters)
maximum height of walls: 1 meter (1 meter)
ground pressure: 0.78 kg per cm²

Armament: Model D-25 122-mm gun, gas pressure 0.82 kg per cm².
There is one coaxial model DTM-1 machine gun,
one in the bow and another in the rear of the tank.

The JS-3 tank is fitted with model Sshk-A 12.7-mm AA machine gun instead of the bow and rear machine guns.

Firing angles: Maximum elevation (?): 25° front
Lowest angle: 5° front
Maximum elevation: 12° rear
Lowest angle: 12° rear
dead space for the gun: 3.7 meters front

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dead space for the gun: 9.5 meters rear

dead space for the machine gun: 40 meters front

Ammunition

28 rounds for the tank gun; 2 drum magazines for the DTM-1 or 7 (?) model machine gun; 5 ammunition belts with 50 rounds each for the Dshk model machine gun; 25 model F-1 or RG-42 hand grenades; 2 submachine guns with 1,000 rounds of ammunition for each; 1 signal pistol with one set of signal ammunition; 2 model MDsh-1 smoke candles.

Sighting equipment.

Tsh-10T-17 sights; side levels; aiming circle; sight equipment for the AA machine gun.

Observation equipment. Five model MN-4 periscopes, 7 field glasses.

The heavy tanks mount model V-2 K, V-2 JS, V-11 engines.

Norms for the Annual Employment of Combat Vehicles.

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Current Number	Type of Vehicle	Tactical Units	Instruction Troops	Military Schools	Remarks
1	Tanks and SP guns	30 hours	-	-	not to be exceeded
2	Armored scout cars and personnel carriers	3,000 km			
3	Sidecar motorcycles mounting weapons	3,000 km			

Vehicles used for instruction purposes:

1	Tanks and SP guns	200 hours	200 hours	200 hours	deviations are possible
2	Armored scout cars and personnel carriers	10,000 km	10,000 km	10,000 km	
3	Sidecar motorcycles mounting weapons	10,000 km	10,000 km	10,000 km	

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25X1 Operating Hours and/or km for Tanks and SP guns between Maintenance Operations.

Current Number	Type of Vehicle	Prior to the first repair		Between first and second repair		Between second repair and general repair		Between first and second general repair	
		hours	km	hours	km	hours	km	hours	km
1	Medium tanks SP -85 SP -100	250	1,500	175	1,000	175	1,000	-	-
2	Medium tanks SP -85 SP -100 after general repair	175	1,000	175	1,000	175	1,000	525	3,000
3	Heavy tanks SP - 122 SP - 152	200	1,200	150	900	150	900	-	-
4	Heavy tanks SP - 122 SP - 152 after general repair	150	900	150	900	150	900	450	2,700

Standards for the Employment of Motor Vehicles between Maintenance Operations in kilometers.

Current Number	Type of Vehicle	Prior to the first repair	Prior to the second repair	Prior to the general repair
1	M-1, GAS-AA, GAS-64, GAS-MM	20,000	40,000	60,000
2	ZIS-6, ZIS-42, YaG-5, YaG-6, GAS-50	15,000	30,000	45,000
3	ZIS-5, ZIS-8, ZIS-12	25,000	50,000	75,000
4	BA-64 armored reconnaissance car	<u>15,000</u> 12,000	<u>-</u> -	<u>30,000</u> 20,000
5	Motorcycles-72	<u>15,000</u> 12,000	-	<u>24,000</u> 16,000

The figures below the line refer to vehicles after general repair.

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On 1 September, three [redacted] JS-2 tanks which came from the direction of Wildpark entered the Kriegsschule at the intersection of Pappel Allee and Kirsch Allee. [redacted] these tanks were to be used for instruction purposes. At 2 p.m. on 2 September, a truck [redacted] occupied by about 50 officers with ranks up to and including captain with gear entered the Kriegsschule. About 4 p.m., 200 officer candidates carrying gear and coming from the direction of Wildpark entered the installation. They were the first officer candidates to arrive for the new training course. [redacted] some officer candidates of the previous training course at the Kriegsschule. Mostly close order drill and physical training was seen. (1)

Comments.

- (1) After the trainees for the officer course arrived at the Kriegsschule in late July 1952, the training course for officer candidates appears to have begun about 1 September. The tanks observed in and near the installation were used for instruction purposes.

- (2) Since the chief of the rear services of the GDRG moved to Wuensdorf in June 1952, the occupation of the Adolf Hitler Kaserne has not been clear. [redacted]

[redacted] advance details of three units at the Adolf Hitler Kaserne as early as June 1952. [redacted] The information reported in paragraph 6 of the present report has not been confirmed although other [redacted] reportedly observed soldiers with artillery and motor transport insignia at this installation. [redacted]

[redacted] No connection between the units quartered in the Delius Kaserne and those stationed at the Adolf Hitler Kaserne has been determined. The construction of a telephone line from the Adolf Hitler Kaserne to the Kriegsschule indicates that students of the courses and/or instruction units may be quartered in the former installation. [redacted]

(3) It appears that there was no change in the occupation of the barracks installations in Nedlitz and Wildpark-West prior to early September. [redacted]

- (5) According to [redacted] paragraphs 8 and 12 of the present report, the Kavallerie Schule, as before appears to have been occupied by the tank training battalion and rear detachments of the 10th Gds Tank Div prior to early September. The release of German personnel by Russians was reported also from other posts. The 100 men who arrived at the Kavallerie Schule in late August, were previously observed [redacted] at the Eichhorn Kaserne in Frankfurt/Oder. [redacted]

- (7) Already on 19 August, [redacted] observed an advance detail in the Lubendorff Kaserne. [redacted] this detail belonged to the 34th Arty Div (US). Two prime movers lettered HD-7, which [redacted] had already seen in the southern section of the Delius Kaserne, were observed with this advance detail. [redacted] confirms the 30th Gds Gun Arty Brig of the 34th Arty Div (US) in Potsdam

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until 19 August 1952. This brigade is quartered in the northern section of the Delius Kaserne. Further information is required to determine whether the Ludendorff Kaserne will be occupied by units from the northern or southern section of the Delius Kaserne.

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[redacted] 21st Gds Hvy Tank SF Regt of the 10th Gas Tank Div in Kramnitz. [redacted] had been confirmed until 15 April 1952. [redacted] the 23th Gds Tank Regt of the 21st Gds Recz Div in Halle. [redacted] had been confirmed until 22 May 1952.

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